

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MEXICO 09044 152205Z

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ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 AID-05 /018 W
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P 151510Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6166

INFO DEA HQS WASHDC PRIORITY

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S/NM FOR VANCE; AID/SER/INC FOR WAMPLER; DEA FOR CUSACK;
AID/GC FOR FINK; DEA/SAO/MEX FOR SWANK

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: SNAR MEX

SUBJECT: SECOND CRASH OF AG AERO SERVICES RW AIRCRAFT:
MODEL 206-B XC-GIR

REF A. MEXICO 8976; B. TELECVON ZAVALA-BERNAL 14 JUL 76

1. SUMMARY: BELL HELICOPTER COMPANY (BHC) TECHNICIAN INFORMED NAU 14 JULY PRELIMINARY REPORTS WERE RECEIVED AT AG HANGAR ON CRASH OF MODEL 206-B (XC-GIR) DURING RESCUE OPERATION ALONG FLOODED RIVERS BETWEEN CITIES OF SAN LUIS POTOSI AND TAMPICO. HELICOPTER CRASHED INTO RIVER AND PILOT'S BODY WAS RECOVERED. CIVILIAN PASSENGER, REPORTED TO BE SON OF PROMINENT STATE OFFICIAL IS MISSING. FATALITIES WERE CONFIRMED ON CRASH REPORTED REF A OF MODEL 212, XC-GUF, IN URUAPAN, MICHOACAN, AREA. TOTAL OF SIX AG PERSONNEL INCLUDING ZONE COORDINATOR PERISHED IN CRASH. MEXICAN DEFENSE HAS NOT RELEASED NUMBER OR NAMES OF MILITARY FATALITIES WHICH MAY BRING TOTAL DEATHS TO TWELVE. END SUMMARY.

2. PRELIMINARY REPORTS FROM BHC TECHNICIAN INDICATE MODEL 206-B, XC-GIR, WAS FLYING SEARCH AND RESCUE MISSION ALONG FLOODED AREAS BETWEEN CITIES OF SAN LUIS POTOSI AND TAMPICO. ROTARY WING AIRCRAFT'S TAILBOOM WAS SPOTTED STICKING OUT OF UNKNOWN RIVER BY ANOTHER GOM AGENCY AIRCRAFT
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FLYING SIMILAR MISSIONS. BODY OF CAPT. EDUARDO ARROYO

LARRAINZAR WAS RECOVERED; HOWEVER, CIVILIAN PASSENGER,
REPORTED TO BE SON OF STATE GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL IS MISSNG.

3. RESCUE AND SALVAGE OPERATIONS ARE IN PROGRESS. IT IS
PREMATURE TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF ACCIDENT. IT IS IRONIC THAT
CAPT. ARROYO LARRAINZAR WAS ANOTHER YOUNG AG AERO SERVICES
PILOT WHO REPRESENTED BETTER-TRAINED CADRE OF PILOTS.

4. AG CHIEF OF PERSONNEL HAS CONFIRMED DEATHS OF AG EMPLOYEES
WHO PERISHED AS RESULT OF CRASH OF MODEL 212, XC-GUF, IN
VICINITY OF CITY OF URUAPAN, STATE OF MICHOACAN, 13 JULY:
AGENTE DE MINISTERIO PUBLICO: LIC. ARTURO PANTOJA
FONSECA, ZONE COORDINATOR.
PILOT: CAPT. ROBERTO RAMIREZ PULIDO.
MECHANIC: RAFAEL AGUIRRE MARTINEZ.
MECHANIC: ADAM ZAMORA RUBIO.
MFJP AGENT: JOSE MANUEL SAUCEDO MORALES.
MFJP AGENT: ALEJANDRO BONILLA IBARRA.

5. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THERE MAY HAVE BEEN
ADDITIONAL SIX MILITARY PERSONNEL ON BOARD INCLUDING
COMMISSIONED OFFICER; HOWEVER, MEXICAN DEFENSE HAS NOT RE-
LEASED ANY NAMES PUBLICLY. BHC CRASH DAMAGE APPRAISAL
TEAM HAS NOT REPORTED AS YET.

6. REQUESTED ACTION: THAT APPROPRIATE WASHINGTON BASED
OFFICIAL SEND LETTER OF CONDOLENCE TO AG. MISSION DRAFTING
SIMILAR LETTER FROM AMBASSADOR.
JOVA

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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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